

International Political Sociology section annual report (2014-2015)

ISA Annual Convention, New Orleans, February 18th-21st, 2015

Inanna Hamati-Ataya has been program chair. She has done a truly outstanding job and has been able to increase IPS program presence up to 127 as either sponsor [12 panels] or co-sponsor [115 panels]. This is again significantly higher than in the past few years [2014: 90 panels; 2013: 58 panels]. IPS received again a good number of submissions for the 2015 Convention, with 172 papers, 58 panels (including 1 distinguished-scholar panel) and 8 roundtables submitted with IPS as first choice.¹

Based on the new allocation rules, IPS obtained a panel quota allocation of 56 (with an additional 1 or 2 in the autumn), which is a slight increase from the initial allocation last year (2014: 49 panels, to which 5 were added later on).

IPS continues to have a high number of panel submissions relative to paper submissions compared with other sections. We think this is a positive sign and that the IPS community is working well to produce research collaboration.

IPS Communication (website, newsletter, listserv)

Our communication is managed by our communication director Morten Skumsrud Andersen. Our listserv includes more than 500 members, as does our Facebook page, whilst we have about 400 followers on Twitter. The social media presence serves mainly for a wider distribution of the information provided by members of the listserv, where appropriate.

There has been one change in our communications practice. We now operate with two mailing lists – the opt-in list based in Google Groups which is open for anyone to join, and a group mail program that allows us to send mail through ISA HQ to active section members. The opt-in mailing list operates as before, providing a valuable forum for calls for papers, news and notices, dialogues, etc. Announcements related to section business (sending newsletters, announcing award winners, etc.) is now done with direct emails from ISA HQ to currently active section members (the ISA offers variable term memberships and they expire and are renewed constantly rather than at a set time of year, and the IPS Section is not allowed direct access to members' email addresses, due to privacy concerns). This new practice is introduced because it provides a benefit of membership and an incentive for IPS members to keep their membership current. This is in contrast to the opt-in mailing list or listserv where one may assume that a good percentage of the subscribers will have lapsed memberships at some point.

Membership

Over the last five years, IPS has grown steadily in terms of membership. In 2005, IPS had a membership of 73. Five years later, in 2010, it had 420. As of November 2014, IPS section has a membership of 652, consolidating its position as fifth largest section of ISA.

IPS finances

IPS currently has a balance of \$9242, which is solid. The costs of the Book Award, Graduate Paper Award and Distinguished Scholar award are at \$750 for 2015 (3 plaques a \$100 and 3 cheques a

¹ Unfortunately we do not have access to the figures for the 2nd option submissions anymore, and hence cannot compare these figures with those of previous years that include 1st and 2nd options (for 2014: 363 papers, 136 panels, and 22 roundtables).

\$150).² The most significant cost relates to the IPS Reception. This year (2015) we have decided to upgrade the reception on the basis of the feedback we have received from IPS members. We will co-organize the reception together with Global health, which contributes \$800; IPS will contribute 2350 USD (2014 : 1631USD), and Routledge co-sponsors the IPS reception with \$850 (in 2014 Routledge co-sponsored with \$650).

IPS has thus succeeded to some degree in improving efforts at raising external funds for receptions, but more work can still be done.

IPS elections 2015

IPS will hold elections as per the IPS Charter for the following positions: Program/Vice Chair, Treasurer, and two members-at-large.

IPS section officers 2014-2015

Chair: Tanja E. Aalberts (VU university, Amsterdam).

Vice-chair/program-chair: Inanna Hamati-Ataya (University of Wales, Aberystwyth)

Past Chair: Ole Jacob Sending (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, NUPI)

Secretary-Treasurer: Rebecca Adler-Nissen (University of Copenhagen)

Communication Director: Morten Skumsrud Andersen (London School of Economics/Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, NUPI)

Executive Committee

Tarak Barkawi (London School of Economics)

Vincent Pouliot (McGill University)

Christian Bueger (University of Wales, Cardiff)

George Lawson (London School of Economics)

Amsterdam, 25 November, 2014

Tanja Aalberts, IPS Section Chair

² The 2015 book award is shared, with each winner receiving a plaque and sharing the total sum of 300 USD; the third plaque is for the Distinguished Scholar Award; the graduate paper award consists of a certificate and 150 USD